

The Man Who Never Lied

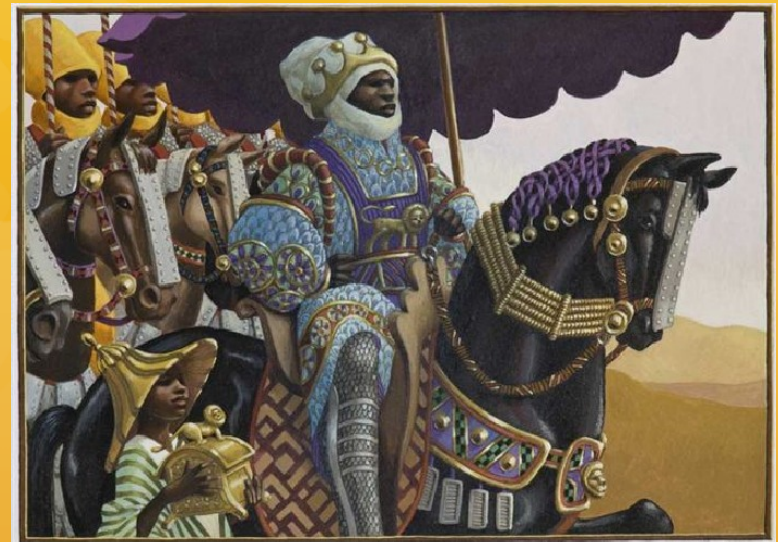


- ❁ There once was a man named Mamad. Mamad was famous through the land for being honest and wise. One day, the King heard of Mamad's honesty and invited him to the palace. When Mamad arrived, the King asked him, "Is it true, that you have never told a lie?"



- ❁ "It's true," Mamad replied.
- ❁ "And you will never lie in your life?" the King asked.
- ❁ "Never."
- ❁ The King told him to beware of lies, "For they are clever and get on your tongue easily."





King on Horse, from the book "Mansa Musa," published by Gulliver Books, Harcourt, Inc. © 2001 Leo and Diane Dillon

- ❁ A few days later, the King invited Mamad to the palace again. The King and his friends were getting ready to go hunting. The King told Mamad "Go tell my Queen to prepare a big feast for when I return for lunch."

❁ Mamad nodded and went to do as he was told. After he left, the King laughed and said, "We won't go hunting and now Mamad will lie to the queen."

❁ But Mamad was wise and when he found the Queen he said, "Maybe you should prepare a big feast for lunch tomorrow, and maybe you shouldn't. Maybe the king will come by noon, and maybe he won't."



- ❁ The Queen was very confused by this. “Will he or will he not be home for lunch?”
- ❁ "I don't know," said Mamad. “But he was on his horse when I left him.”
- ❁ So everyone waited for the King to return, but he did not.

- ❁ The next day, the King told his Queen
“Yesterday, Mamad told you a lie, for I
was not home for lunch.”
- ❁ But the Queen told him exactly what
Mamad said. And the King realized,
that the wise man never lies, and says
only what he sees with his own eyes.

THE END